www.SBCounty.gov



County Administrative Office Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria Director

June 8, 2020

The Honorable Kamala Harris United State Senate 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: S. 3422 – The Great American Outdoors Act – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Harris:

On behalf of the County of San Bernardino, we are writing thank you for your support of S. 3422, the Great American Outdoors Act, legislation that would provide certainty for the Lands and Water Conservation Fund and address maintenance and construction backlog on public lands.

The County of San Bernardino in Southern California is geographically the largest county in the contiguous United States, stretching from Los Angeles and Orange counties to the west, all the way to the Nevada and Arizona state lines. It encompasses much of the Mojave Desert, the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, all or part of the three national park units, four national monuments, and all or part of five military bases, including two of the largest desert bases in the country.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been used in the past to conserve irreplaceable lands and improve outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the nation.

Outdoor recreation is a significant part of our County's economy, especially beneficial to numerous rural communities which enjoy the benefit of providing goods and services to those who come from around the country and around the world to enjoy our expansive and beautiful natural resources.

For example, a significant stretch of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail crosses our County, and parts of the trail still traverse private lands. The LWCF would be an appropriate source of funding to protect those segments from restricted access or development.

As the population in Southern California and the rest of the nation grows, the demand for outdoor recreation increases, and permanent funding from the LWCF will help meet that need.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino thanks you for your support of S. 3422. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or icandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Curt Hagman

Board of Supervisors Chairman

Fourth District Supervisor County of San Bernardino

Dawn Rowe

Board of Supervisors

Third District Supervisors County of San Bernardino